

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AT  
MARTHA'S VINEYARD STATE FOREST IS SUBJECT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2005, to discuss projects at Manuel F. Correllus State Forest on Martha's Vineyard which are designed to reduce the risk of wildfire and restore the forest to native vegetation and ecological conditions.

The public meeting will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Edgartown Selectman's Meeting Room. DCR and partners will be presenting information on past and present projects at the state forest and discussing issues related to future projects.

On September 22, 2005, DCR has also scheduled a public field trip (rain or shine) from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon to view and discuss these projects. Tour participants will meet at the park headquarters office in Manuel F. Correllus State Forest. Hiking shoes are recommended for tour participants. The public is invited to join DCR and its partners by attending the public meeting or field trip.

According to DCR Commissioner, Steven Burrington, "The need to manage fuels and restore ecological conditions within the state forest is important to the Commonwealth and Martha's Vineyard. DCR has made much progress and we hope to continue making progress with the support of the Martha's Vineyard community."

For additional information on the public meeting or the site tour, please contact Manuel F. Correllus State Forest Supervisor John Varkonda at [John.Varkonda@state.ma.us](mailto:John.Varkonda@state.ma.us) or 508-693-2540.

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